



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Tokuo NAKATANI

Docket No. 2001_0895A

Serial No. 09/891,128

Group Art Unit 2615

Filed June 26, 2001

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0978.

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of [X] the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and/or [] the additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the form PTO-1449 and each U.S. patent application listed below is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for each reference previously cited by or submitted to the Patent Office in prior parent application Serial No.

1a. [X] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or

before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. [] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

- (1) the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**
- (2) the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and

the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified

- a. that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or
- b. that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:

- a. a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,

- b. a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
- c. the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
- d. the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
- e. the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:
 - 1. **Japanese Laid-open Patent Application No. 10-234002 corresponds to EP 860829 A;**
 - 2. **Japanese Laid-open Patent Application No. 9-259542 corresponds to USPN 6,212,330 B1; and**
 - 3. **Japanese Laid-open Patent Application No. 2000-4421 corresponds to EP 965991 A.**

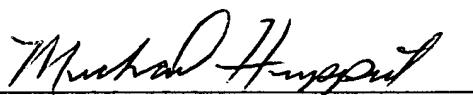
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- 5. A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Tokuo NAKATANI

By 
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October 19, 2001

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

OCT 19 2001

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Date Submitted to PTO: October 19, 2001

ATTY/DOCKET NO.
2001_0895ASERIAL NO.
09/891,128APPLICANT
Tokuo NAKATANIFILING DATE
June 26, 2001GROUP
2615

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	6,212,330	4-3-2001	Yamamoto et al.			
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AJ	2000-4421	1-7-2000	JP			X
	AK	965 991	12-22-99	EP			
	AL	9-259542	10-3-97	JP			X
	AM	860 829	8-26-98	EP			
	AN	10-234002	9-2-98	JP			X

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AO	
	AP	
	AQ	
EXAMINER		DATE CONSIDERED